

I Claim:

1. A method for establishing a data connection and for transmitting data from a first computing unit to a second computing unit, which comprises, in the first computing unit, selecting and reading out from a database an address of the second computing unit in a selection program; establishing a connection with the address of the second computing unit; initially performing a version comparison between the first and the second computing units with respect to an employed communications protocol; and, after the communications protocol is determined, establishing a data connection for transmitting data.
2. The method according to claim 1, which includes displaying a specified number of diagnostic programs; selecting and starting one of the diagnostic programs via the first computing unit; and transmitting results of the one diagnostic program to the first computing unit.
3. The method according to claim 1, which includes displaying a specified number of diagnostic programs for monitoring a printing press connected to the second computing unit; selecting and starting one of the diagnostic programs via the first computing unit; and transmitting results of the one diagnostic program to the first computing unit.

4. The method according to claim 3, which includes providing a table wherein diagnostic programs are assigned to specified printing presses, so that when establishing a connection, the diagnostic programs pertaining to a printing press are displayed for selection.
5. The method according to claim 3, which includes, depending upon the diagnostic program that is selected, establishing a communications protocol via which data are transmitted between the first and the second computing units.
6. The method according to claim 3, which includes, depending upon the diagnostic program that is selected, providing a specified number of data ports via which data are transmitted.
7. The method according to claim 6, which includes transmitting specified data only via specified data ports.
8. The method according to claim 7, which includes outputting the data in parallel via the data ports, and transmitting the data output serially in data packets via the data connection.
9. The method according to claim 8, which includes providing in each data packet an identifier for the data port, which indicates the data port from which the data were output.

10. The method according to claim 1, which includes selecting a type of control with which the printing press is controlled by the computing unit and, depending upon the control that is selected, selecting at least one of a communications protocol and a diagnostic program.

11. The method according to claim 1, which includes selecting a type of control with which the printing press is controlled by the computing unit and, depending upon the control that is selected, displaying at least one of a communications protocol and a diagnostic program for selection.

12. A computing unit with a memory, comprising at least one of hardware and software for selecting and reading out from a database an address of another computing unit in a selection program, for establishing a connection with the address of the other computing unit, for initially performing a version comparison between the computing units with respect to an employed communications protocol, and for establishing, after the communications protocol is determined, a data connection for transmitting data.